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April 18, 31959 '99 APR 28 A9 53

Dr. Stephen Sundlof FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine 7500 Standish Place Rockville, MD 20855

Dear Dr. Sundlof:

We are writing to request that the FDA ban the routine use of antibiotics in farm animals.

It is current factory farm practice to administer antibiotics to food animals solely to promote rapid growth. These antibiotics have nothing to do with treating any illnesses the animals may have, and there is mounting evidence that their use is increasingly fostering antibiotic-resistant infections in human populations. Indeed, many researchers fear that the routine use of antibiotics in the human food chain will eventually contribute to fatal antibiotic-resistant infections.

The need to stop this practice (i.e., of automatic antibiotic administration to farm animals) is therefore exigent.

We hope you will consider our views.

Very truly yours,

Marc + hate Weinbergen

Marc & Kate Weinberger